

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 5 1. A method for monitoring a biological property,  
comprising:  
10 (a) collecting a biological input at a user  
terminal;  
15 (b) converting the biological input into a first  
signal in a transducer associated with the user terminal;  
(c) transmitting the first signal over a  
bidirectional link to a controller;  
(d) processing the first signal in the controller  
and generating a second signal;  
20 (e) transmitting the second signal over the  
bidirectional link to the user terminal; and  
(f) converting the second signal into a human-  
discernible message at the user terminal.
- 25 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
biological input comprises a biological specimen.
- 30 3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the  
biological specimen is blood.
- 35 4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the  
biological specimen is urine.
5. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the  
biological specimen is selected from the group consisting of  
blood, urine, tears, sweat, semen, vaginal swab extract,  
throat swab extract, sputum, mucous, and breath.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
biological input comprises a physiological signal, image, or  
5 response.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the  
physiological signal, image, or response comprises an acoustic  
signal, a photographic image, a light reflection, a reflected  
10 acoustic wave, pressure, an exhalation, or an inhalation.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
bidirectional link comprises a telephone line, an optical  
fiber, a cellular phone link, a coaxial cable, a wireless  
internet link, an infrared data link, a radio frequency link,  
15 or a bidirectional satellite pager.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the  
first and second signals are, independently, an electric  
signal, a magnetic signal, or an optical signal.  
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10. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the user  
terminal comprises an input port and a user interface.

25 11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the user  
interface comprises one or more of a computer screen, a key  
pad, a mouse or other cursor control device, a speaker, and a  
microphone.

30 12. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the user  
interface comprises a computer screen, a key pad, and a mouse  
or other cursor control device.

35 13. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the input  
port is configured to receive a biological specimen.

14. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the input port is configured to receive a physiological signal.

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15. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the controller comprises at least one server.

10 16. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the human-discriminable message comprises an on-screen message, an audio message, or both an on-screen message and an audio message.

17. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

- 15 (g) collecting a second biological input at the user terminal;
- (h) converting the second biological input into a third signal;
- (i) transmitting the third signal over the bidirectional link to the controller;
- 20 (j) processing the third signal in the controller and generating a fourth signal;
- (k) transmitting the fourth signal over the bidirectional link to the user terminal; and
- 25 (l) converting the fourth signal into a human-discriminable message at the user terminal.

18. A delocalized apparatus for monitoring a biological property, comprising:

- 30 (a) a user terminal comprising an input port and a user interface;
- (b) a transducer coupled to the input port;
- (c) a bidirectional link coupled to the transducer;
- and
- (d) a controller coupled to the bidirectional link;
- 35 wherein, the user terminal and controller have

geographically distinct locations;

5 the transducer is capable of converting a biological input collected at the user terminal into a first signal;

the controller is capable of processing the first signal, generating a second signal, and causing the second signal to be transmitted over the bidirectional link to the user terminal; and

10 the user terminal is capable of converting the second signal into a human-discriminable message.

19. A method for monitoring a biological property in a group of individuals, comprising:

15 (a) collecting a biological input at each of a plurality of user terminals;

(b) converting each biological input into a first signal in a unique transducer associated with each of the user terminals;

20 (c) transmitting each first signal over a unique bidirectional link to a controller;

(d) processing all of the first signals in the controller and generating a plurality of second signals;

25 (e) transmitting a second signal over each unique bidirectional link to each user terminal; and

(f) converting each second signal into a human-discriminable message at each user terminal.

20. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the biological property is blood glucose concentration and the biological input is a blood specimen.

21. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the biological property is hCG level and the biological input is a blood or urine specimen.

22. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
biological property is bacteria level and identity and the  
5 biological input is a specimen selected from the group  
consisting of blood, urine, tears, sweat, semen, vaginal swab  
extract, throat swab extract, sputum, and mucous.

23. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
10 biological property is pulmonary function and the biological  
input is one or more exhalations and/or inhalations.

24. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
biological property is auscultation and the biological input  
15 is an acoustic signal.

25. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
biological property is nevi morphology and the biological  
input is a photographic image.

20 26. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
biological property is refractive error and the biological  
input is a light reflection.

25 27. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
biological property is intraocular pressure and the biological  
input is an acoustic or electromagnetic radiation reflection.

30 28. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
biological property is auditory response and the biological  
input is a user's activation of a keypad or cursor control  
device.